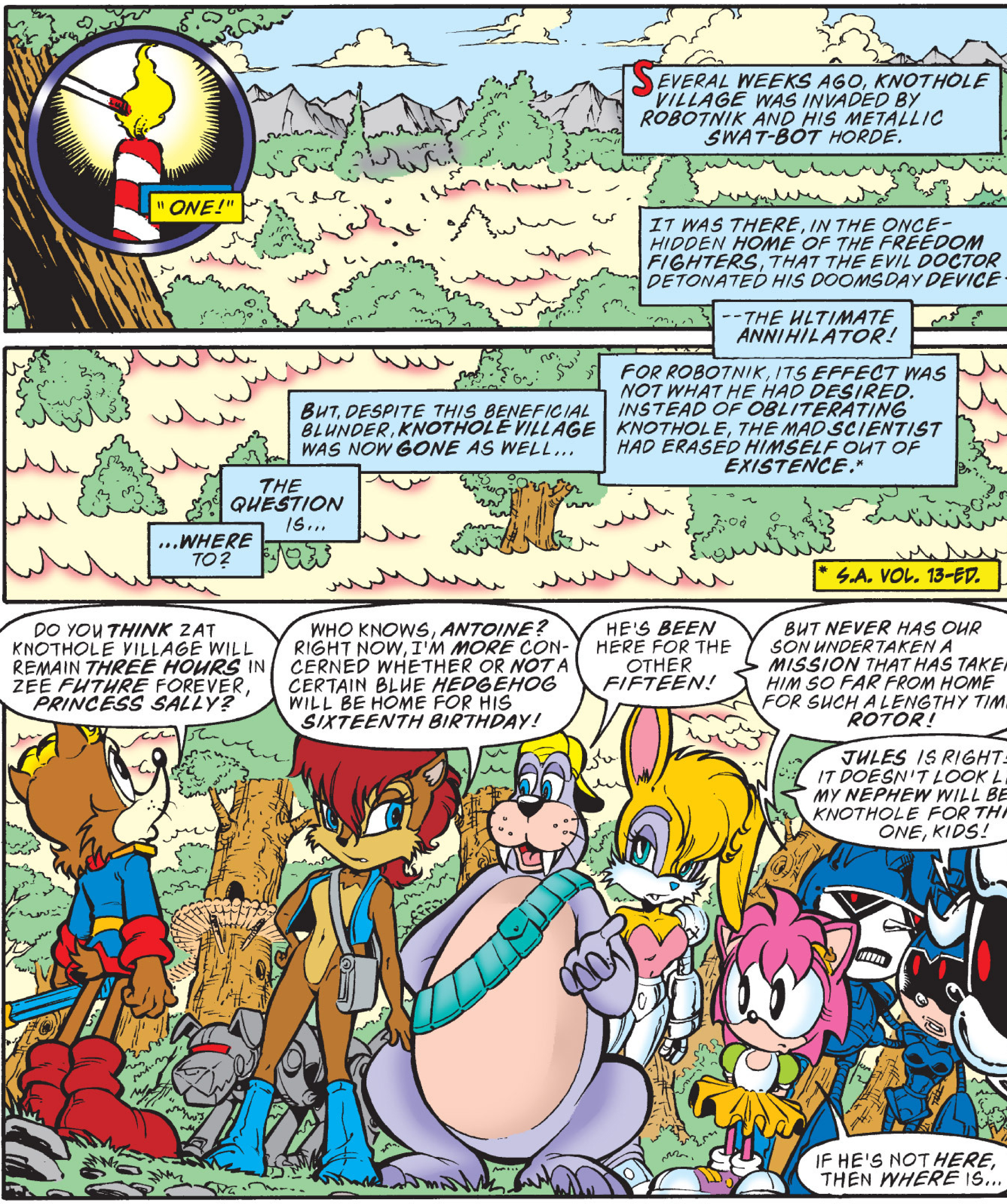
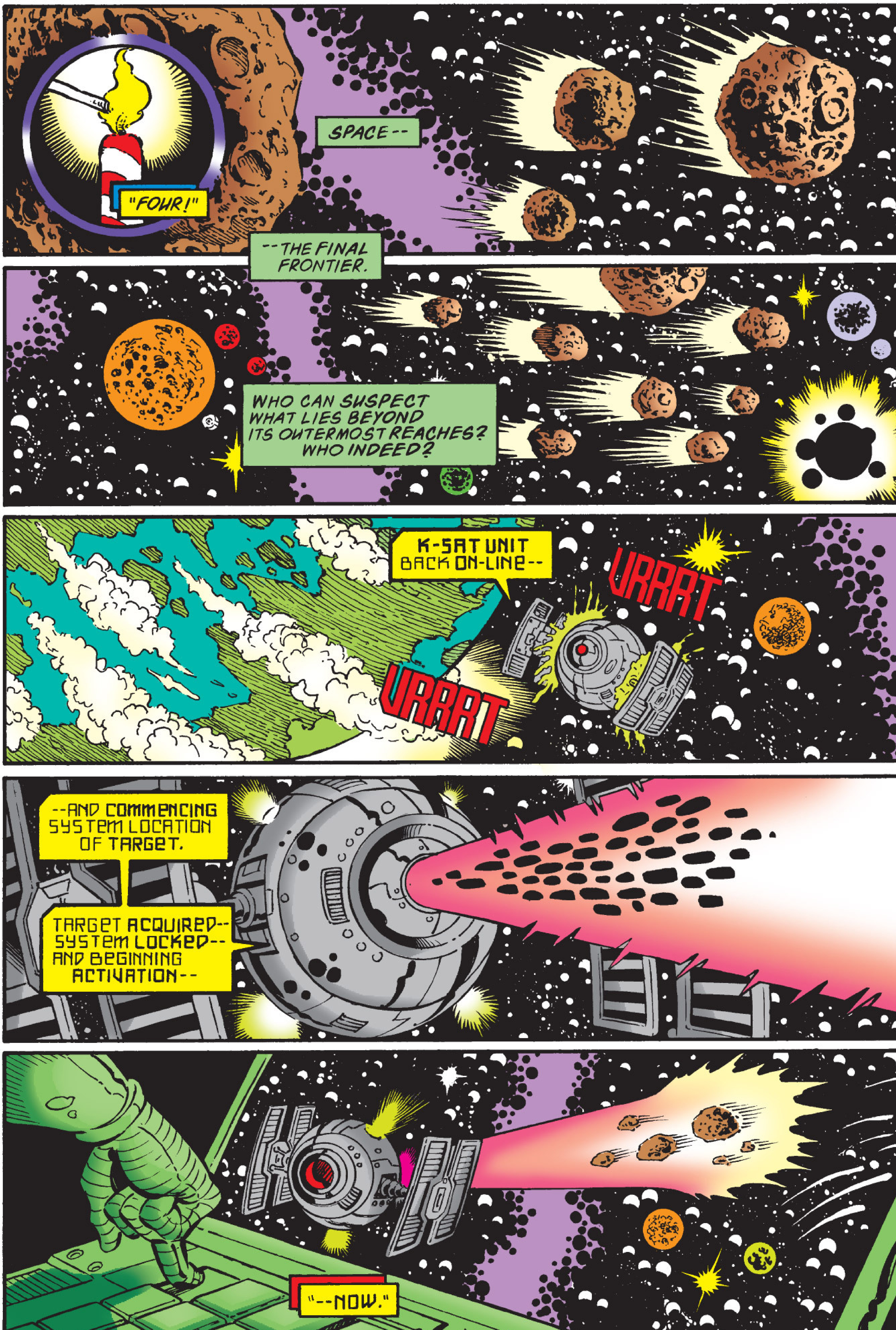

Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.68 MAR.
US $1.75 CAN $1.95
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SONIC...
---HOPE YOU SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE!
SPAZ HARO


THE PLANET MOBIUS WAS ONCE A VIRTUAL PARADISE UNTIL IT WAS CONQUERED BY THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK! HIS TECHNOLOGICAL TYRANNY WOULD HAVE CONTINUED IF NOT FOR A HEROIC GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO BANDED TOGETHER AND RESTORED ORDER TO THE KINGDOM OF ACORN! THE BRAVEST AMONG THEM IS A BLUE STREAK FILLED WITH THE MOST ATTITUDE GOING AROUND - - AND, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HE IS THE FASTEST THING ALIVE! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!



"TWO!"
Welcome Back
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
IN
SURPRISE!
KARL BOLLERS-WRITER STEVEN BUTLER-PENCILER PAMEKLUND-INKER JEFF POWELL-LETTERER FRANK GAGLIARDO-COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE-EDITOR VICTOR GORELICK-MNGING EDITOR RICHARD GOLDWATER-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE I'M BACK IN MOBOTROPOLIS AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! THOUGH IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE CITY I LEFT! BUT WHY THE DISGUISES, MY FRIENDS?
AFTER ROBOTNIK'S RULE, THE SIGHT OF AN OVERLANDER* (EVEN ONE AS SHORT AS YOU) COULD CAUSE A PANIC AMONG THE MOBIANS, NATE!
POINT TAKEN. SAY... WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT ABOUT?
YEAH, SONIC-- SOME KIND OF PARADE IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE!
FIRE WORKS
DANGA ROOZ
"THREE!"
EVEN THOUGH WE LANDED MY BI-PLANE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN, I THINK WORD MIGHT'VE GOTTEN OUT EARLY ABOUT OUR COMIN' BACK HOME, TAILS!
FROM THE LOOK O' THINGS, THESE SLY CITIZENS ARE PUTTIN' TOGETHER A BIG, FAT SURPRISE BIRTHDAY BASH FOR YOURS TRULY (TALK ABOUT AN ADORING PUBLIC)! WE'D BETTER KEEP THESE ROBES ON, SO NOBODY'LL RECOGNIZE US! DON'T WANNA BLOW THE SURPRISE! COME ON!
*Humans-ED.



"FOUR!"
SPACE--
--THE FINAL FRONTIER.
WHO CAN SUSPECT WHAT LIES BEYOND ITS OUTERMOST REACHES? WHO INDEED?
K-SAT UNIT BACK ON-LINE--
URRRT
URRRT
--AND COMMENCING SYSTEM LOCATION OF TARGET.
TARGET ACQUIRED--SYSTEM LOCKED--AND BEGINNING ACTIVATION--
"--NOW."


"FIVE!"
MEANWHILE, IN THE DESERTED CITY OF WEST ROBOTROPOLIS...
...ON BIG KAHUNA ISLAND...
SO WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO, SNIVELY?
ABOUT WHAT, DRAGO?
ABOUT WARLORD KODOS...
...AND ARACHNIS! WHO ELSE?!
I-- I--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! I AM IN CHARGE HERE! IT WAS MY GENIUS THAT ALLOWED US TO ESCAPE THE DEVIL'S ISLAND GULAG...
*Due to Ixis Naugus' spell. SEE SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 14--ED.
I DON'T KNOW WHY IN THE WORLD WE BOTHERED TO BRING THEM ALONG WITH US AFTER WE BROKE OUTTA JAIL! JUST LOOK-- THEY'RE MADE OUT OF PURE CRYSTAL!*
...WASN'T IT? I MEAN-- I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW I DID IT-- BUT ALL THE CELL DOORS OPENED AFTER I SAID I WAS GOING TO LIBERATE MYSELF!**
MAYBE THEY'RE WORTH SOMETHIN' SLEUTHDOGGY-- LIKE DIAMONDS!
** S.A. VOL. 16--ED.


"SIX!"
I SAY WE FORGET ABOUT 'EM AND POOL OUR TALENTS FOR FIGURIN' OUT HOW TO TAKE OVER MOBOTROPOLIS! WE'VE GOTTA BE SLY... REAL SNEAKY LIKE...
BAH!
YOU'RE TALKING OUT OF YOUR HAT, NACK! WE'VE GOT TO TREAT THIS INVASION LIKE IT'S A MILITARY OPERATION-- YOU READ ME?
KER-RAK
BOTH YOU AND THE WEASEL ARE WAY OFF-BASE, SERGEANT SIMIAN! OUR ATTACK HAS GOT TO BE AERIAL OR NOT AT ALL!
YEAH, LIKE WE'VE ALL GOT WINGS HERE...
--YOU STINK--
--SHUT UP--
--DUMMY--
--WHY I OUGHTA--
COME ON NOW, FELLOWS--
HOW ABOUT A LITTLE--
UHH... GUYS?
Gasp!
THUNK
SURPRISE!
WE'RE BACK!

"SEVEN!"
AND, IN THE GREAT FOREST...
I GOTS TO SAY-- IT SHO IS A PLEASHUH EVERY TIME WE VISIT KNOTHOLE VILLAGE, Y'ALL!
I SECOND THAT, BUNNIE! THESE PAST THREE DAYS ALMOST SEEMED LIKE A REAL VACATION! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I--
PRINCESS--I AM RECEIVING AN URGENT SIGNAL FROM YOUR FATHER, THE KING, ON MY BUILT-IN RADIO TRANSMITTER!
THANKS, NICOLE... AND YOU, TOO, ROTOR! NICOLE'S UPGRADED SYSTEMS ARE FANTASTIC!
THINK NOTHING OF IT, SALLY!
PRINCESS, WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT YOU FOR TWO DAYS NOW-- ALL OF YOU MUST RETURN TO MOBO-TROPOLIS IMME-DIATELY OR YOU'LL MISS THE CITYWIDE CELEBRATION...
...TO HONOR SOMEONE FROM YOUR PAST WHO HAS FINALLY RETURNED AFTER SOME TIME AWAY!
ARE YOU GUYS THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
SONIC'S BACK!


"EIGHT!"
BACK IN MOBOTROPOLIS...
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY POPULAR 'ROUND THESE PARTS, SONIC!
YOU THINK? YOU OUGHTTA CHECK OUT SAND BLAST CITY, NATE (OH WAITAMINNIT-- BAD IDEA)!*
* SEE S.A. VOL. 16 & 17 TO FIND OUT WHY.--ED.
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR LOCAL ABOVE AVERAGE, WAY PAST COOL HERO LEAVES HOME FOR A WHILE!
ARE WE GOING TO SEE THE PARADE, ROSIE?
HUH? HUH?
GOODNESS GRACIOUS, YES, CHILDREN!
STAY ON THE GROUND, TAILS!
THE WAY YOU HOVER MIGHT BLOW OUR COVER!
SORRY!
?
THAT CLOAKED TRIO-- THEIR VOICES HAVE A FAMILIAR RING!
EXCUSE ME! GENTLEMEN -- HELLO THERE!
OH NO. OH NO. OH NO.
OH NO! LOOK OUT!


BONUS PIN-UP



PRO ART BY
FORMER "BRENDA STARR" COMIC STRIP ARTIST
RAMONA FRADON.
COLOR & ENJOY!

"NINE!"
RUN!
THE SKIES ARE FALLING!
FW-KRAKSHT
"TEN!"
SAY-- THIS ISN'T PART O' THE CELEBRATION...
...AND THAT, TAILS, IS OUR CUE TO SAVE THE DAY!
LET'S GO!
A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...
FALLING ASTEROIDS ARE DESTROYING THE CITY! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
ANTOINE-- BUNNY-- ROTOR-- AMY ROSE--
"--LET'S MOVE!"
IF YOU'VE GOT A HANDLE ON THOSE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, I CAN PUT THE LOCK-DOWN ON THESE FLAMES, LI'L BUDDY!
I HEAR YOU, BIG BLUE!
FALLING ASTEROIDS? WHY, OF ALL THE UNLIKELY--!


"ELEVEN!"
FWOOSH
HOORAY, DULCY!
WHAT HE SAID!
Y'ALL HANG TIGHT, Y'HEAR? IT'S BUNNIE RABBOT TO THE RESCUE!
THIS WAY, CITIZENS!
ALORS! MY NEW TROUSERS --WE ARE VERY NEARLY SINGED!
NICOLE-- CAN YOU GIVE ME AN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION? HOW COULD ANY OF THIS BE HAPPENING IN THE FIRST PLACE?
ACCORDING TO MY ASTRONOMICS FILE, A CLUSTER OF ASTEROIDS WAS SCHEDULED TO PASS WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PLANET MOBIUS, PRINCESS SALLY--
--BUT NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE CAUGHT BY ITS GRAVITY!
SEEMS LIKE WE'VE GOT OUR-SELVES A--
WHOOSH
--MYSTERY?
HOLD IT ONE SECOND! A SPEEDING FIGURE --RUSHING OFF TO SAVE HELPLESS INNOCENTS?

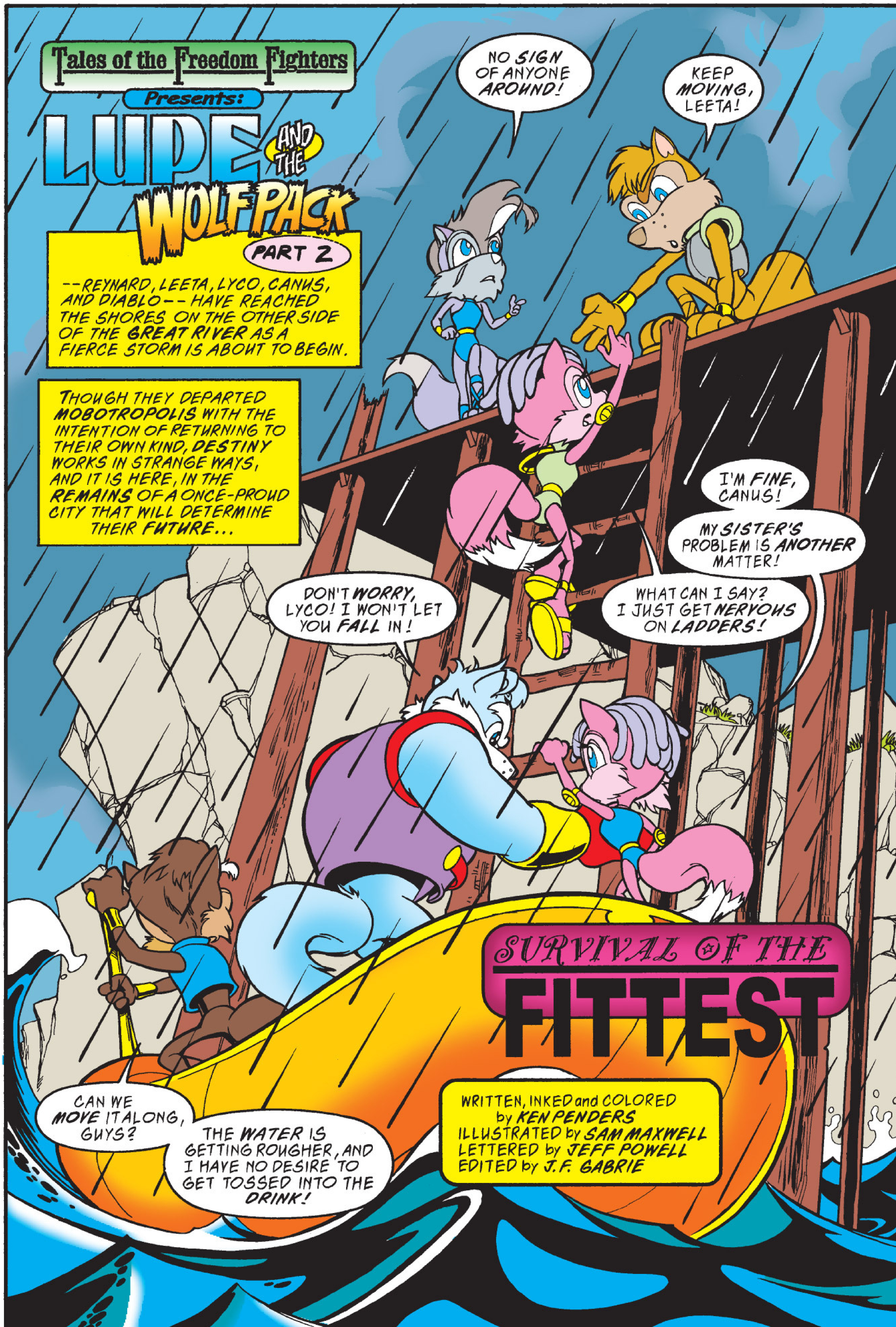

"TWELVE!"
SONIC!
SALLY!
NO!
SK-THOOM
YOU'RE HOME! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE FINALLY HOME!
SURPRISE, SAL...


"THIRTEEN!"
LOOK, GANG, IT IS SONIC! AND THE ASTEROIDS HAVE STOPPED!
HOORAY!
AND, AS USUAL, HE BRINGS WITH HIM ZEE SONIC BOOM!
WHAT AM I--CHOPPED CHILI-DOG?
DOUBLE HOORAY!
TAILS IS BACK, TOO!
IT EEZ MILES PROWLER (COMPLETE WITH ASTEROID SHOWER)--BUT WHO EEZ THIS?
I, YOUTHFUL GENT, AM NATHANIEL BEAUREGARD MORGAN! CALL ME NATE!
LET ME HANDLE THIS, NATE (THAT OVERLANDER THING, Y'KNOW)... THIS DUDE HELPED US KICK IXIS NAUGUS' BUTT RIGHT ON BACK TO THE ZONE OF SILENCE!*
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN TWO EYES!
* SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 17--ED.
OH MY GOODNESS--SONIC! IS MY FATHER OKAY? HE TOLD US YOU HAD RETURNED AND--
WAITAMINNIT, SAL--I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR DAD! I'M SURPRISED HE'D EVEN KNOW I WAS BACK--BUT THEN WHY THE BIG CELEBRATION?

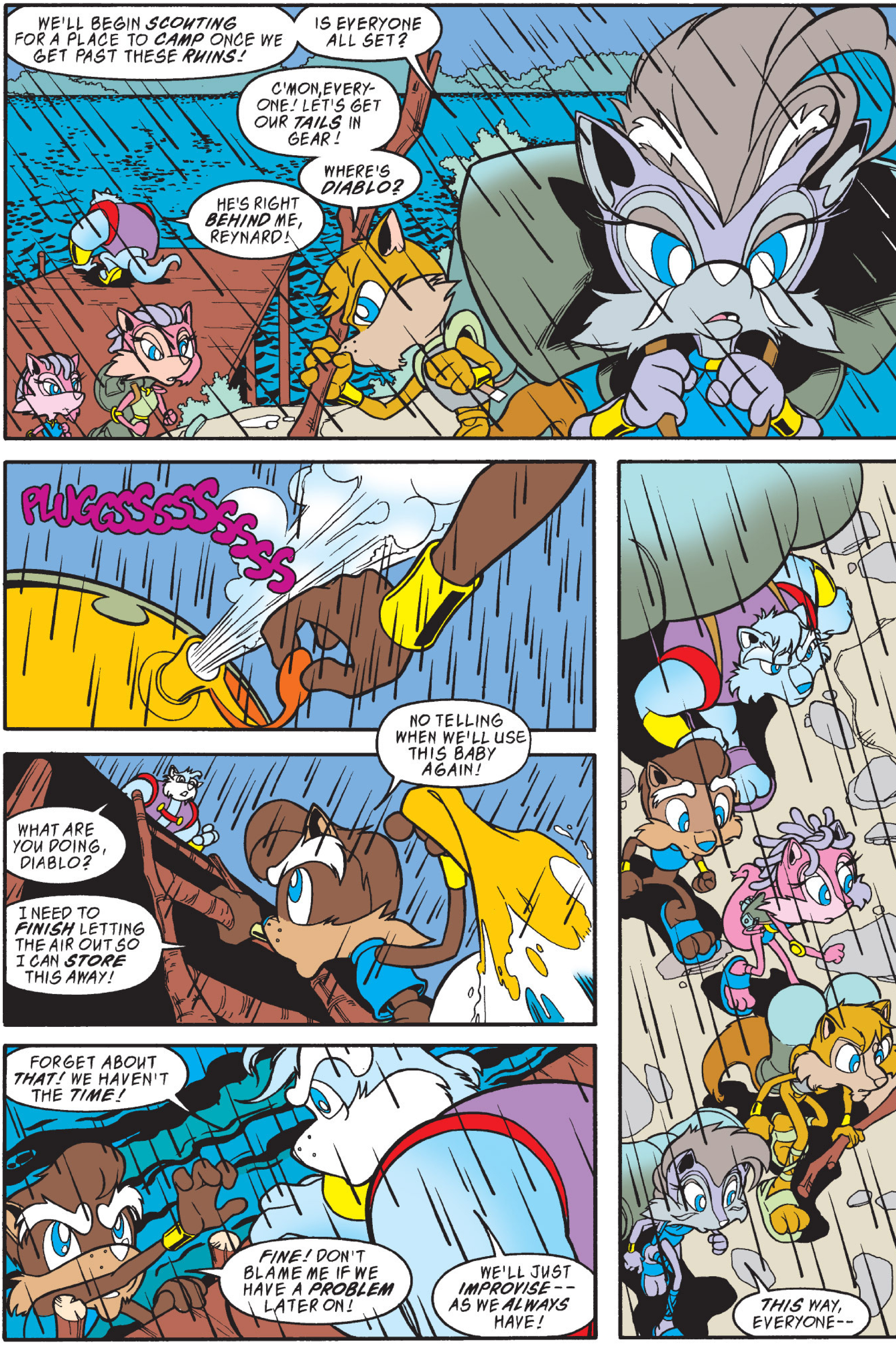

"FOURTEEN!"
HIS HIGHNESS MUST HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE FROM YOUR PAST WHEN HE CONTACTED YOU EARLIER, SALLY!
I SAY WE GO FIND OUT!
"...AT CASTLE ACORN!"
PRINCESS, I AM QUITE PLEASED TO SEE YOU HERE IN SUCH RECORD TIME AND DOUBLY OVERJOYED THAT YOU'RE UNHARMED BY TODAY'S DISASTER!
THANKS, DAD-- I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE FINE, TOO! BUT LOOK, DAD-- SONIC HAS RETURNED FROM TRAVELLING THE GLOBE--*
*SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 15-18.--ED.
--WITH AMAZING NEWS ABOUT HIS MISSION TO STOP IXIS NAUG--
YES, YES, SALLY-- THAT'S ALL FINE AND WELL, BUT WE'VE NO TIME FOR SUCH TRIVIALITIES!
NOT THAT I MEAN TO DIMINISH SONIC'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS... HOWEVER, WE HAVE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO!
IMPORTANT MATTERS?

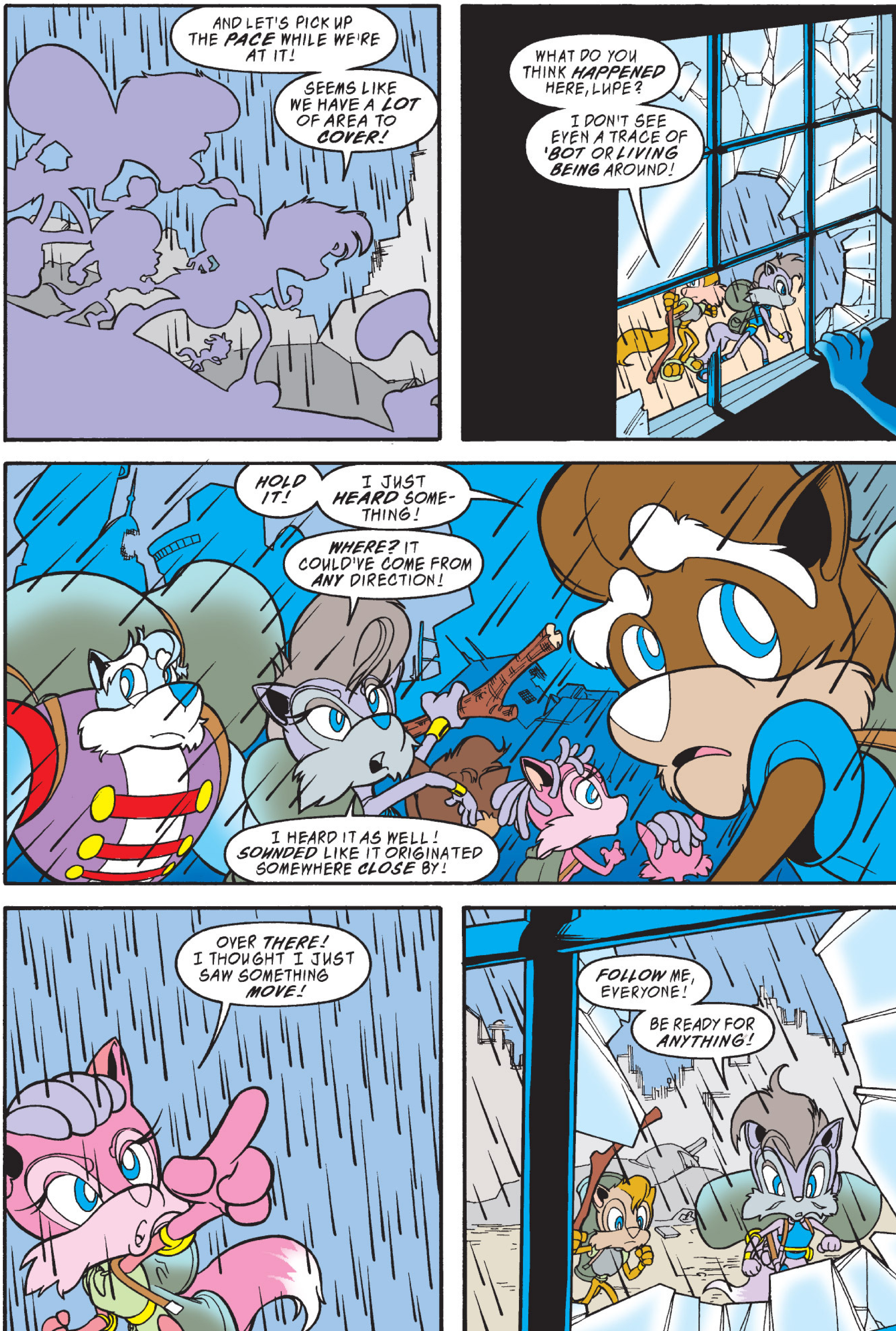

"FIFTEEN!"
PRESENTING... PRINCE ELIAS ACORN!
AFTER BEING SECRETLY SMUGGLED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND* AT THE ONSET OF THE GREAT WAR BETWEEN US AND THE OVERLANDERS, MY SON ELIAS AND MY QUEEN ALICIA LIVED THERE UNTIL TODAY! GEOFFREY St. JOHN'S MISSION WAS TO FIND THEM--AND FIND THEM HE DID!
AND--AS OF TWO DAYS AGO--THEY ARE ONCE AGAIN WHERE THEY BELONG... BACK IN THE KINGDOM OF ACORN!
* SEE SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 17, AVAILABLE NOW, AND KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL. 4, COMING SOON! --EDITOR
NOW WHAT'S THIS HIDDEN HORROR BENEATH THIS HERE HOOD--?
HUH?! IT'S A BLEEDIN' OVERLANDER--MAKIN' AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON OUR LIEGE, NO DOUBT! WELL, THEY SHOULD HAVE SENT SOMEONE TALLER, MATE!
BACK OFF, ST. JOHN! IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM--
GEOFFREY! GEOFFREY! YOU'VE MADE A SIMPLE MISTAKE... FOR THIS "OVERLANDER" YOU REFER TO WAS ONCE THE SINGLE GREATEST ALLY OF THE KINGDOM!
WELCOME HOME, UNCLE NATE! I'VE MISSED YOU!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AS WELL, MAX... IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AS WELL.
WELL, SO MUCH FOR MY BIG BIRTHDAY HOME-COMING CELEBRA--
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, HEDGEHOG, WHILE OUR READERS FLIP THE PAGE!

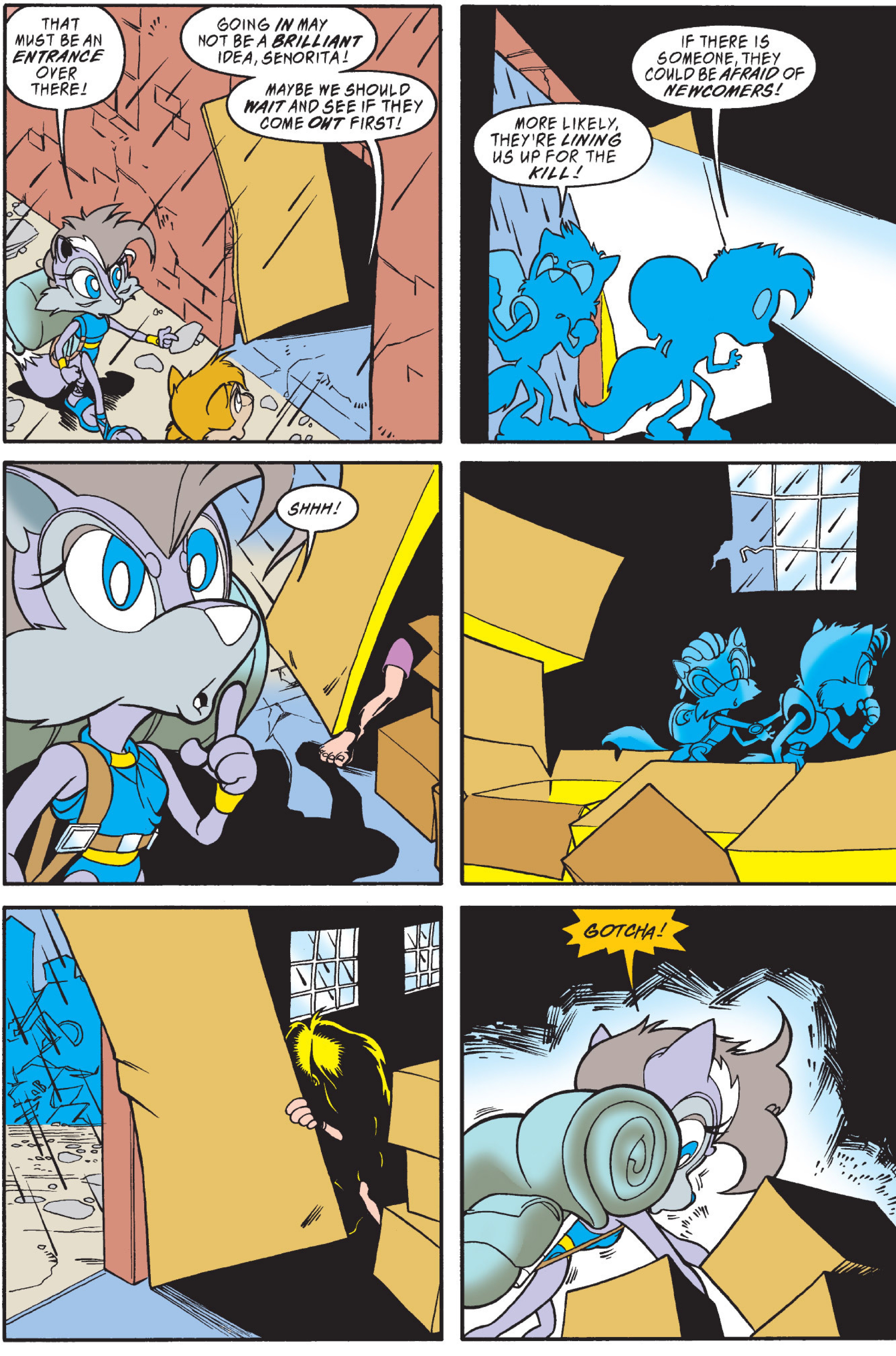

HAPPY 16th BIRTHDAY,
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
16
MAN, THAT WAS WAY PAST CLOSE (AND IT'S A GOOD THING, TOO--I'M A SUCKER FOR HAPPY ENDINGS)!

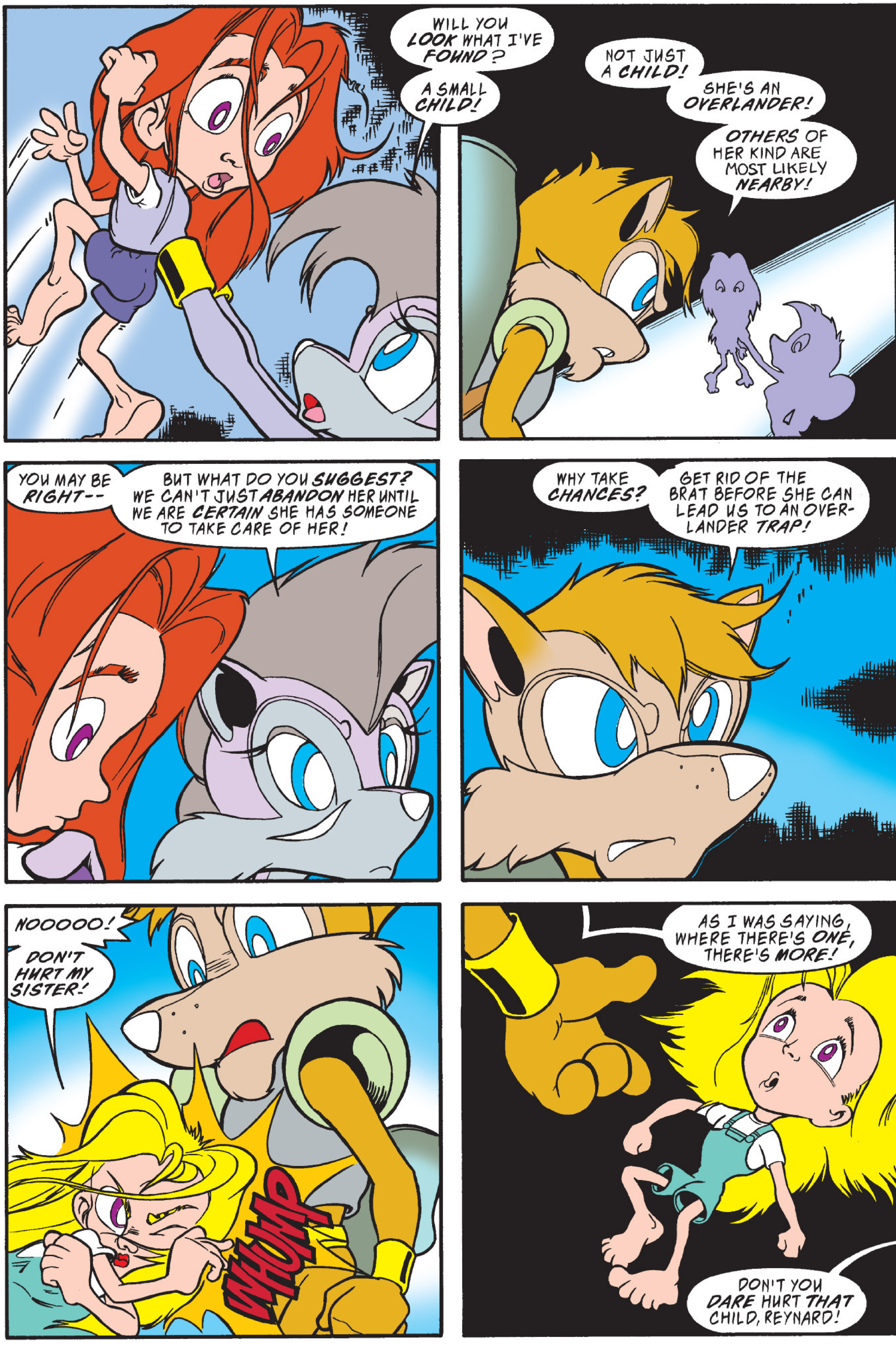



Tales of the Freedom Fighters
Presents:
LUPE AND THE WOLF PACK
PART 2
--REYNARD, LEETA, LYCO, CANUS, AND DIABLO-- HAVE REACHED THE SHORES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREAT RIVER AS A FIERCE STORM IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
THOUGH THEY DEPARTED MOBOTROPOLIS WITH THE INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THEIR OWN KIND, DESTINY WORKS IN STRANGE WAYS, AND IT IS HERE, IN THE REMAINS OF A ONCE-PROUD CITY THAT WILL DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE...
NO SIGN OF ANYONE AROUND!
KEEP MOVING, LEETA!
I'M FINE, CANUS!
MY SISTER'S PROBLEM IS ANOTHER MATTER!
DON'T WORRY, LYCO! I WON'T LET YOU FALL IN!
WHAT CAN I SAY? I JUST GET NERVOUS ON LADDERS!
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST
CAN WE MOVE IT ALONG, GUYS?
THE WATER IS GETTING ROUGHER, AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO GET TOSSED INTO THE DRINK!
WRITTEN, INKED and COLORED by KEN PENDERS
ILLUSTRATED by SAM MAXWELL
LETTERED by JEFF POWELL
EDITED by J.F. GABRIE


WE'LL BEGIN SCOUTING FOR A PLACE TO CAMP ONCE WE GET PAST THESE RUINS!
IS EVERYONE ALL SET?
C'MON, EVERY-ONE! LET'S GET OUR TAILS IN GEAR!
WHERE'S DIABLO?
HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME, REYNARD!
PLUGGSSSSSSSSSSS
NO TELLING WHEN WE'LL USE THIS BABY AGAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DIABLO?
I NEED TO FINISH LETTING THE AIR OUT SO I CAN STORE THIS AWAY!
FORGET ABOUT THAT! WE HAVEN'T THE TIME!
FINE! DON'T BLAME ME IF WE HAVE A PROBLEM LATER ON!
WE'LL JUST IMPROVISE -- AS WE ALWAYS HAVE!
THIS WAY, EVERYONE--


AND LET'S PICK UP THE PACE WHILE WE'RE AT IT!
SEEMS LIKE WE HAVE A LOT OF AREA TO COVER!
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED HERE, LUPE?
I DON'T SEE EVEN A TRACE OF 'BOT OR LIVING BEING AROUND!
HOLD IT!
I JUST HEARD SOME-THING!
WHERE? IT COULD'VE COME FROM ANY DIRECTION!
I HEARD IT AS WELL! SOUNDED LIKE IT ORIGINATED SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY!
OVER THERE! I THOUGHT I JUST SAW SOMETHING MOVE!
FOLLOW ME, EVERYONE!
BE READY FOR ANYTHING!


THAT MUST BE AN ENTRANCE OVER THERE!
GOING IN MAY NOT BE A BRILLIANT IDEA, SENORITA!
MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT AND SEE IF THEY COME OUT FIRST!
IF THERE IS SOMEONE, THEY COULD BE AFRAID OF NEWCOMERS!
MORE LIKELY, THEY'RE LINING US UP FOR THE KILL!
SHHH!
GOTCHA!


WILL YOU LOOK WHAT I'VE FOUND?
A SMALL CHILD!
NOT JUST A CHILD!
SHE'S AN OVERLANDER!
OTHERS OF HER KIND ARE MOST LIKELY NEARBY!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT--
BUT WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST? WE CAN'T JUST ABANDON HER UNTIL WE ARE CERTAIN SHE HAS SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF HER!
WHY TAKE CHANCES?
GET RID OF THE BRAT BEFORE SHE CAN LEAD US TO AN OVER-LANDER TRAP!
NOOOOO!
DON'T HURT MY SISTER!
WHUMP
AS I WAS SAYING, WHERE THERE'S ONE, THERE'S MORE!
DON'T YOU DARE HURT THAT CHILD, REYNARD!


HAVE YOUR SENSES TAKEN LEAVE, LUPE?
HER PEOPLE COULD OVERCOME US AT ANY MOMENT!
GIVE ME THE CHILD, REYNARD!
I PROMISE YOU NO ONE IS GOING TO HARM YOU OR YOUR SISTER!
DO YOU HAVE A NAME, CHILD?
AERIAL. MY NAME IS AERIAL!
AND YOUR SISTER--DOES SHE HAVE A NAME AS WELL?
ATHENA-- AND SHE DOESN'T TALK!
HERE I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST BEING SHY AROUND STRANGERS!
WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS, AERIAL?
GONE! ALL GONE!
THE LITTLE WHELP IS LYING!
HUSH, REYNARD!
GATHER THE OTHERS--
--WHILE I DECIDE WHAT WE SHOULD DO NEXT!
NEXT: FRIEND OR FOE?